



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 1, 2002

Mr. Jack Savage
Oil Tech, Inc.
5615 North 6300 West
Morgan, Utah 84050

Re: Deficient Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Activities, Oil Tech, Inc., Rawhide Mine, S/047/076, Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Savage:

Thank you for your revised Notice of Intention (NOI), received by the Division March 22, 2002, concerning your proposed small mining program located in Section 10, Township 9 South, Range 25 East, SLBM, Uintah County, Utah. The notice does not satisfy the requirements of Rule R647-3 of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975, Title 40-8, et seq., Utah Code Annotated.

The following information is still required:

1. Please provide complete acreage figures and clarify those you have provided. The NOI does not include the area already disturbed. This area is mostly in Section 15 of Township 9 South, Range 25 East, but the NOI indicates mining activities would only be in Section 10. The text of the NOI says the process site pad would be 412' X 310', the Mine Site Map #4 shows it as 145' X 350', and the detailed plant site map included with the NOI indicates it would be 350' X 445'. Please resolve these discrepancies.
2. Although some changes have been made to the Mine Site Map #4, the disturbance calculations have not been changed. Also, please provide a new copy of this map showing the areas you intend to disturb and excluding those areas that have been deleted from your plans.
3. The Mine Site Map #4 does not show the substation location, although it is included in the list of disturbances.
4. The NOI does not show the size of disturbance with the mine decline, turnaround, and vent shaft. It also does not show any surface access to this site. While we understand the difficulties in planning the mine, we need to know where these facilities will be and the size of the disturbance before we can permit them.

5. Although the NOI indicates you will have an agreement in place before you begin using or make changes to the service road that parallels the power lines, we need to know that you have an agreement with the entity that is responsible for the road before allowing you to use the rock as a road surfacing material.. It appears the work to upgrade this road may not be so extensive that the road would need to be permitted; however, we are still concerned about the rock you plan to use on the road. Before mine development waste could be used on the road, we would need to know the chemical nature of this material.
6. Please indicate how and where you plan to dispose of mine development waste. The volume of material that would be generated is such that it would not be practical to use all of it on the access road.
7. The NOI says there may be a one-acre temporary surface stockpile of spent shale until an underground room is cleared. The shale may then be taken underground. However, the NOI still contains the option that the material could be taken to a disposal area in the abandoned Gilsonite trenches. We need to know definitively where you will dispose of this material. These disposal areas need to be permitted, and we need to know that you have right of entry. We also need information about the chemical nature of the spent shale and what effects this material might have on ground or surface water.
8. The NOI contains a note from Byron Merrell that he spoke with Jean Sinclair of the Bureau of Land Management who indicated there are no threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants in the area. Please provide written documentation from Ms. Sinclair. Also, please provide information indicating whether the area contains habitat for the mountain plover.
9. The lease number shown in the NOI is ML 48952, but, according to SITLA, the correct number is ML 48592. Please make this correction.
10. The Division is in receipt of a letter dated March 28, 2002, from SITLA indicating (item 3) that you intend to drill exploration holes. As stated in their letter, these need to be approved before you drill them.

When I spoke with you and Byron Merrell in a conference call on March 28, 2002, I indicated I would contact the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to determine whether a cultural resources survey would be required. Since SITLA is requiring the survey, I will not contact SHPO at this time.

On April 1, 2001, I telephoned the Division of Water Quality and spoke with a person in the ground water regulatory section. Because we currently have limited information about the nature of the spent shale and about ground water in the area, this person was not certain whether approval from their agency would be required. However, he informed me that you should advise their office if there is any chance that ground water could come in contact with the material and that the ground water would be contaminated.

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Jack Savage
S/047/076
April 1, 2002

Do not hesitate to call me at 801-538-5261 if you have any questions about this review. The Division will suspend review and await your amended Notice of Intention. In reply, please refer to S/047/076. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P B B', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul B. Baker
Senior Reclamation Biologist

jb
cc: John Blake, SITLA
Don Ostler, Water Quality
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